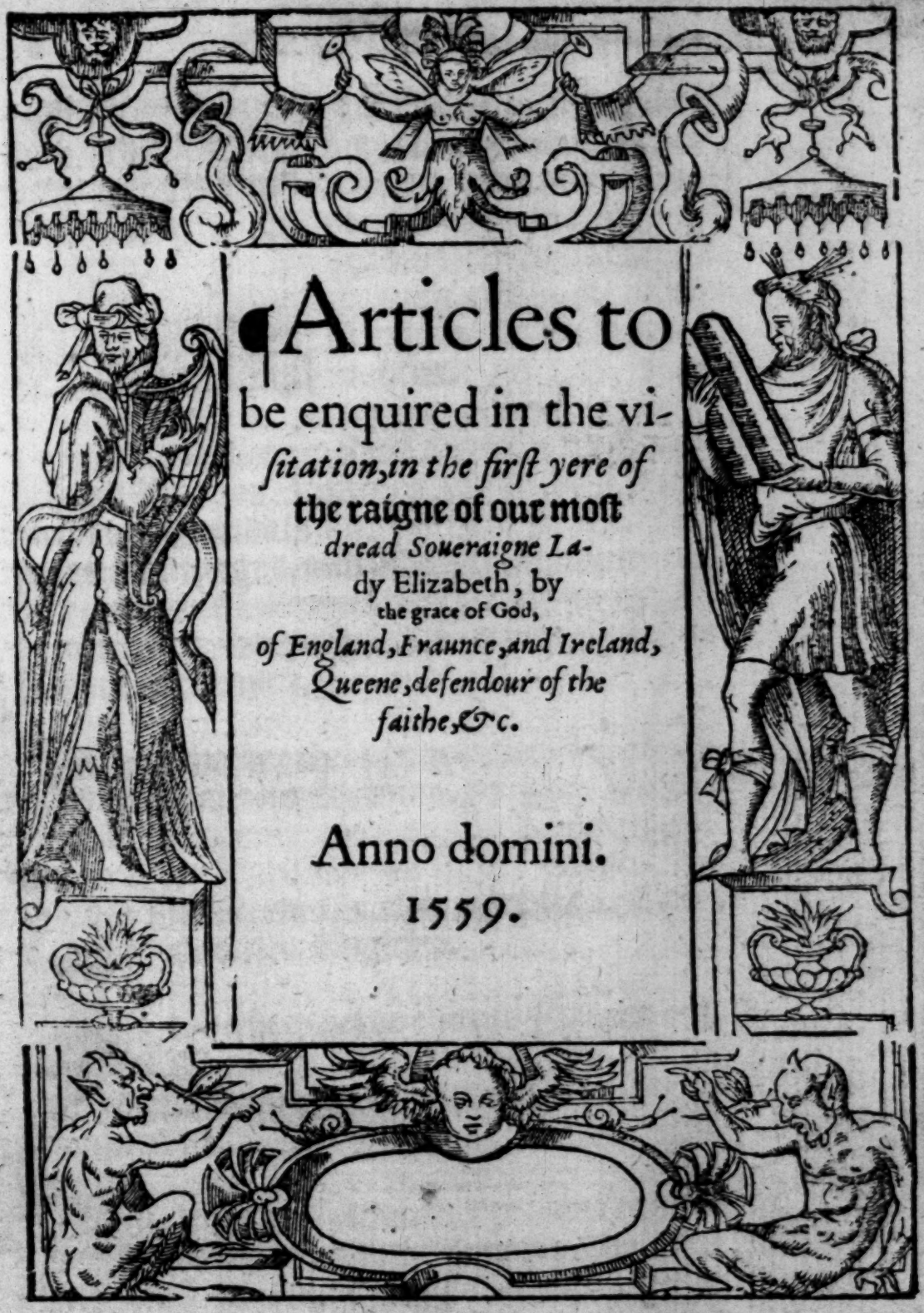

¶Articles to be enquired in the visitation, *in the first yere of* the raigne of our most *dread Soueraigne La*dy Elizabeth, by the grace of God, *of England, Fraunce, and Ireland, Queene, defendour of the faithe, &c.*

Anno domini.

1559.

Articles.

Irst, whether any Parson, Vicar or Curate bee resident continually vpon his Benefice, doyng his ductie in preaching, readyng, and duely ministryng the holie Sacramentes. 1 Residencie

Item, whether in their Churches & Chappels, all Images, Shrines, all Tables, Candlesticks, Trindals, and rolles of Waxe, Pictures, paintynges, and all other monumentes of faigned and false miracles, Pilgrimages, Idolatrie, and Superstition, be remoued, abolished, and destroyed. 2 False miracles.

Item, whether thei doe not euery holy daie, when thei haue no Sermon, immediatly after the Gospell, openly, plainely, and distinctly, recite to their Parishioners in the Pulpit, the Lordes prayer, the Beleefe, and the ten Commaundementes in Englishe. 3 The Lords prayer.

Item, whether thei do charge Fathers and mothers, Maisters, and gouernours of youth, to bryng them vp in some vertuous studie and Occupation. 4 To bryng vp youth.

Item, whether suche beneficed men, as bee lawfully absent from their Benefices, do leaue their cures to a rude and vnlearned person, 5 Curates.

and not to an honest, well learned, and expert Curate, whiche can and will teach you wholesome doctrine.

Readyng the Scripture.

6 Item, whether thei doe discourage any person from readyng of any parte of the Bible, either in Latine or Englishe, and doe not rather comforte and exhorte euery person to reade the same at conuenient tymes, as the very liuely worde of GOD, and the speciall food of mans soule.

Tauernes and games.

7 Item, whether Parsons, Uicars, Curates, and other Ministers, be comnõ haunters and resortes to Tauernes or Alehouses, giuyng themselues to drinkyng, riotyng, and playyng at vnlawfull games, and doe not occupie themselues in the readyng or hearyng of some parte of holie Scripture, or in some other Godly exercise.

Preachers.

8 Item, whether thei haue admitted any man to preache in their cures, not being lawfully licenced thereunto, or haue been licenced accordyngly.

Superstition.

9 Item, whether they vse to declare to their Parishioners, any thyng to the extollyng or settyng forthe of vaine and superstitious Religion, Pilgrimages, Reliques, or Images, or lightyng of Candles, kissyng, kneelyng, or deckyng of the same Images.

Item,

Item, whether they haue one booke or regi- 10
ster kept, wherein they write the daie of euery Register.
Weddyng, Christnyng and Buriyng.

Item, whether they haue exhorted the peo- 11
ple to obedience to the Queenes Maiestie, and Obedience.
Ministers, and to charitie and loue one to an
other.

Item, whether thei haue admonished their 12
Parishioners, that they ought not to presume The Sa-
to receiue the Sacrament of the bodie & blood crament.
of Christ, before they can saie perfectly the Lor-
des praier, the Articles of the faith, and the ten
Commaundementes in Englishe.

Item, whether they be resident vppon their 13
Benefices, and keepe hospitalitie or no. And if Hospitalitie
they bee absent, and keepe no hospitalitie, whe-
ther thoy doe relieue their Parishioners, and
what they giue them.

Item, whether Proprietaries, Parsons, 14
Vicars and Clarks hauing Churches, Chap- Reparati-
pelles, and Mansions doe keepe their Chaun- ons.
cels, Rectories, Vicarages, and all other hou-
ses appertainyng to them, in due reparations.

Item, whether they doe counsell or moue 15
their Parishioners, rather to praie in a tongue Prayer in
not knowne, then in English, or put their trust Englishe.
in any certaine number of praiers, as in saiyng

Beades. ouer a number of Beades, or other like.

16 Item whether they haue receiued any per-
Diffamed persons. sons to the Communion, beyng opẽly knowne to be out of charitie with their neighbours, or diffamed with any notorious crime, and not reformed.

17 Item, whether thei haue prouided, and haue
Poore mẽs boxe. a strong chest for the poore mens boxe, and set and fastned the same in a place of the Churche, most conuenient.

18 Item, whether they haue diligently called
Testament. vpon, exhorted and moued their parishioners, and especially when they make their Testamentes, to giue to the saied poore mens Boxe, and to bestow that vpon the poore, which thei were wont to bestow vpõ Pilgrimages, Pardons, Trentals, and vpon other like blind deuotions.

19 Item, whether thei haue denied to visite the
Sicke. Buriall. sicke, or burie the dead beeyng brought to the Church.

20. Item, whether thei haue bought their Be-
Simonie. nefices, or come to them by fraude, guile, deceit, or simonie.

21 Item, whether they haue giuen open moni-
Adulterers. tion to their Parishioners, to detect and pre-

sent

sent to their Ordinary al Adulterers and Fornicatours, and suche men as haue two wiues liuyng within their Parishes.

Item, whether thei haue monished their parishioners openly, that thei should not sel, giue, nor otherwise alienate any of their Churche goodes. 22 Churche goodes.

Item, whether thei, or any of them do keepe mo Benefices and other Ecclesiastical promotions then thei ought to doe, not hauyng sufficient licences, and dispensations therunto, and how many thei be, and their name. 23 Many Benefices.

Item, whether thei minister the holy Communion any otherwise, then onely after suche forme and maner, as it is set forth by the common authoritie of the Queenes Maiestie and the Parliament. 24 Communiõ

Item, whether you know any person within your Parish or els where, that is a letter of the worde of God to be read in English, or sincerely preached in place and tymes conuenient. 25 Letters of the worde or preachyng.

Item, whether in the tyme of the Letanie, or any other common prayer, in the tyme of the Sermon or Homily, and when the Priest readeth the Scriptures to the Parishioners, any person haue departed out of the Churche without iust and necessary cause, or disturbe the minister 26 Goers out of ỹ church.

niſter otherwiſe.

27 Churche money. Item, whether the money comming and riſing of any Cattell, or other moueable ſtockes of the Churche, and money giuen and bequeathed to the findyng of Torches, Lightes, Tapers, or Lampes, not paied out of any landes, haue not been employed to ỹ poore mens cheſt.

28 Keepers of the Church money. Item, who hath the ſaid ſtockes and money in their handes, and what be their names.

29 Contempt of Prieſtes. Item, whether any vndiſcreete perſon doe vncharitably contemne and abuſe Prieſts and Miniſters of the Church.

30 The Kings Grammer. Item, whether there bee any other Grammer taught in any Schoole within this Dioceſſe, then that which is ſet forth by the authoritie of kyng Henrie the eight.

31 The tyme of Seruice. Item, whether the ſeruice of the Church be doen at due and conuenient howers.

32 Talkers in the Church. Item, whether any haue vſed to commune, iangle, and talke in the Church in the the time of the praier, reading of the Homilie, preaching readyng or declaryng of the Scripture.

33 Hereſies. Item, whether any haue wilfully maintained and defended any Hereſies, errors, or falſe opinions, contrary to the faithe of Chriſt and holy Scripture.

Item,

Item, whether any be common drunkards, swearers or blasphemers of the name of God. 34. Drunkards

Item, whether any haue committed Adulterie, Fornication or incest, or be commõ Bawdes, or receiuers of suche euill persons, or vehemently suspected of any of the premisses. 35 Adulterers.

Item, whether any bee brawlers, slaunderers, chiders, scholders, and sowers of discorde betweene one person and an other. 36 Brawlers.

Item, whether you knowe any that doe vse Charmes, Sorceries, Inchauntmentes, Inuocations, Circles, Witchcraftes, Soothsaying, or any like craftes or imaginations inuented by the Deuill, and specially in the tyme of womens trauaile. 37 Sorcerers.

Item, whether the Churches, Pulpits, and other necessaries appertainyng to the same, be sufficiẽtly repaired, and if thei be not, in whose default the same is. 38 Pulpits.

Item, whether you knowe any, that in contempt of their owne Parishe church doe resort to any other Church. 39 Resorters to other Churches.

Item, whether any Inholders, or Alehouse keepers, doe vse commonly to sell meate and drink in the time of common praier, preaching, readyng of the Homilies, or Scripture. 40 Inholders.

41 Diuorce. Item, whether your knowe any to be maried within the degrees prohibited by the lawes of God, or that be separated or diuorced without the degrees prohibited by the lawe of God, and whether any suche haue maried againe.

42 Priuie contractes. Item, whether you know any to haue made priuie contractes of Matrimonie, not cal'yng two or moe witnesses thereunto, nor hauyng thereto the consent of their parentes.

43 Banes. Item, whether thei haue maried solemnely, the banes not first lawfully asked.

44 Executors. Item, whether you knowe any Executors, or Administratours of dead mēs goods which doe not onely bestow suche of the said goodes, as were giuen and bequeathed, or appointed to bee distributed among the poore people, repairyng of high waies, findyng of poore scholers, or mariyng of poore maidens, or suche other like charitable deedes.

45 Images. Item, whether you know any that keepe in their houses any vndefaced Images, Tables, Pictures, paintynges, or other Monumentes of fained and false miracles, Pilgrimages, Idolatrie and superstition, and doe adore them, and specially such as haue been set vp in Churches, Chappels and Oratories.

46 Bookes. Item, what bookes of holy Scripture you haue

haue deliuered to be burnt, or otherwise destroyed, and to whom ye haue deliuered the same.

Item, what bribes the accusers, Promoters, Persecuters, Ecclesiasticall Iudges, and other the Commissioners appointed within the seuerall Dioces of this Realme, haue receiued by themselues or other of those persons whiche were in trouble, apprehended or imprisoned for Religion. 47 Bribes.

Item, what goodes moueable, landes, fees, offices, or promotions, haue been wrongfully taken awaie in the tyme of Queene Maries raigne, from any person whiche fauoured the Religion now set forth. 48 Losse of goodes.

Item, how many persons for Religion haue died by fire, famine, or otherwise, or haue beene imprisoned for the same. 49 How many burnt.

Item, that you make a true presentment of the number of all the persons which died with in your Parishes, sithen the Feast of Sainct Ihon the Baptist, whiche was in the yeere of our Lorde God a thousand fiue hundred, fiftie and eight, vnto the same Feast last past, making therein a plaine distinct declaration, how many men, women, and men childzen the same were, and the names of the men. 50 Certificat of the dead.

Item, whether you know any man in your 51 Secrete

 Malles.

Parish, secretly, or in lawfull conuenticles, say, or heare Masse, or any other seruice prohibited by the lawe.

52 False rumors. Unlawfull bookes.

Item, whether you knowe any person in your Parishe, to bee a slaunderer of his neighbours, or a sower of discorde betweene partie and partie, man and wife, parentes and their children, or that hath inuented, bruted, or set foorth any rumours, false and seditious tales, slaunders, or makers, bryngers byers, sellers, keepers, or conueighers of any vnlawfull bookes, whiche might stirre and prouoke sedition, or maintaine superstitious seruice within this Realme, or any ayders, counsailers, procurers or maintainers thereunto.

53 Patrone. Tithes. Vacation.

Item, whether the Churche of your Parish be now vacant or no, who is the patrone therof, how long it hath been vacant, who doth receiue the Tithes, Oblations, and other commodities, during the tyme of the vacation, and by what authoritie, and in what estate the said Church is at this time, and how lõg the Parson or Vicar hath had that Benefice.

54 Minstrels.

Item, whether any Minstrels, or any other persons, doe vse to sing or saie any Songes, or Ditties that bee vile or vncleane, and specially in derision of any Godly order now set foorth and established.

Item,

Item, whether the Letany in English with the Epistle and Gospell whiche was by the Queenes highnesse proclamation willed to be read to ỹ people, were put in vse in your Churches, and if not, who were the letters thereof. 55 Letanie in Englishe.

Item, whether the Curates and Ministers doe leisurely, plainely, and distinctly reade the publique prayers, Chapters and Homilies, as they ought to doe. 56 Distinct readyng.

God saue the Queene.

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Cum priuilegio Regiæ Maiestatis.